

“For your tomorrows ...”

Introduction

The war memorials of Dethick, Lea and Holloway, Derbyshire record casualties in the three wars in the twentieth century. The following is compiled from the actual memorials, the contemporary editions of the Parish Magazine and articles from various sources. The authoritative pamphlet by Grace Else about the church was the source for the details about the memorial which is the east window. There are seven memorials and some are listed on the web site <http://www.ukniwm.org.uk/server/> and consulted by entering separately both “Lea” and “Holloway”. George Wigglesworth

Memorials

1 Cenotaph

This was erected in a memorial garden. SK 325 568. It is a tall obelisk of local stone on square plinth and a three-stepped base, standing on raised pedestal and was unveiled by the Duke of Devonshire on 08 October 1922 and dedicated by the Bishop of Southwell.

The wording is as follows

West Face: “Bear in mind the men from Dethick, Lea and Holloway who fought and died in the Great War 1914 - 1918”.

There follow the fifteen names of casualties in the First World War.

East face: “O Lord support us all the day long of this troublous life until the shades lengthen and the evening come and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work done. Then O Lord in Thy mercy grant us safe lodging, a Holy rest and peace at the last through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen”

South Face: “Let us never forget the men of the parish of Dethick, Lea and Holloway who died on active service for their country in the Second World War 1939 - 1945.” There follow the names of the casualties.

2 Church memorial naming all the dead.

This is on a stone band with gold lettering along each side of Christ Church. It was designed by Lawrence Turner of London. It was also unveiled by the Duke of Devonshire on 08 October 1922 and dedicated by the Bishop of Southwell. SK 330 569. It states

“The men of this parish whose names are inscribed here died for their country in the war of 1914 - 1918.” There are fifteen named.

3 Church memorial for George Futvoye Marsden Smedley

This is a stained glass east window of five lights and geometric tracery designed by L Davies of Pinner and made by Cowell of Surbiton. The depictions are

- a St George with an inset of the pillar of cloud to guide Israel by day
- b Jacob wrestling with the angel, the inset being the building of the walls of Jerusalem
- c Jacob’s dream
- d David before Goliath with an Angel guarding the city
- e The Archangel Michael with an inset of the pillar of fire leading the Israelites by night.

There are four quatrefoils showing personal incidents

- a A child planting a tree
- b Squirrels playing
- c An Aurora Borealis over Iceland
- d A church on a hill

The upper lights are the Virgin and Child in the middle and on either side angels gathering up the souls of the departed.

The wording is “To 2nd Lt. George Futvoye Marsden-Smedley, 3rd Batt. Rifle Brigade, Guillemont 18.8.1916”

3 A tablet under the west window of the church commemorates a casualty in the Boer War in which Jack Dawes died.

“To the memory of Pte. John Dawes of Holloway, 3rd Grenadier Guards
Killed in Action at Belmont, South Africa,
on November 23rd 1899, Age 22 years
“Greater love hath no man than this,
that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

4 Memorial in a shelter to 2nd Lt Marsden Smedley
He is also commemorated by a limestone tablet set into the wall of a stone shelter with a wooden seat. (Adjacent to the toilets on Church St.) SK 324 567 It is inscribed “In memory of George Futvoye Marsden-Smedley aged nineteen years who fell in the battle of the Somme 18th August 1916”.

5 “John Smedley” memorial 1914 - 1918
This is in two parts relating to the First and Second World Wars. They are both stone plaques 2m wide, under and adjacent to the works bridge over the road. SK 318 564. The former states
“In memory of the men who went from Lea Mills and died for their country in the Great War 1914 - 1918” (the ten names follow).
“They were a wall unto us both by night and by day.”

6 “John Smedley” memorial 1939 - 1945
The part relating to the Second World War states
“In memory of the men from Lea Mills
who fell in the World War 1939 - 1945” (the nine names follow).
“It is better for us to perish in battle
than to look upon the outrage of our nation and our altars.
As the will of God is in heaven even so let him do.”

7 Lea Free Chapel memorial manuscript
This is within the Free Chapel to the South of Main Road founded over three hundred years ago by Thomas Nightingale. SK 330 575 It is a framed illuminated manuscript listing 136 serving soldiers of whom three are Australian and five Canadian. Eight are signified as casualties.

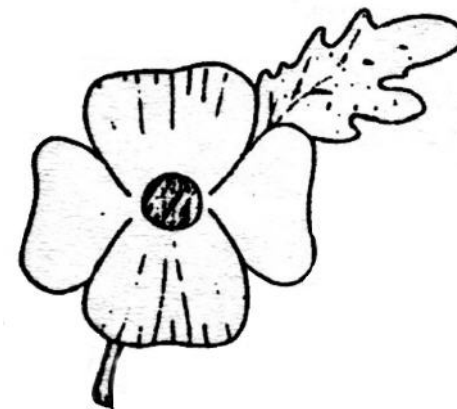
* * * **The First World War** 1914 - 1918 * * *

There are a number of sources we know about, some of which are still extant in the parish. In October 1917 there was a proposal to the Parochial Church Council that a 'Roll of Honour' be displayed including those who were resident in the Parish at the time they joined H.M. Forces. In that this was before the end of the war there must have been other sources and the war memorials include non-residents.

The information here is based on the memorial in the Parish Church illuminated by reports in the Parish Magazines which published extracts from letters which had been written to people in the village (subject to the exigencies of censorship at that time) and records details of their service and the notification of the casualties. Such information has then been amplified from the recall of older members of the villages.

129 men were on Active Service from the villages in January 1917, the last occasion when such a list was published in the Parish Magazine. H.Gregory reports the final number as 135. A branch of the British Legion was instituted in 1921 to look into the affairs of the ex-servicemen and the war widows and other dependants.

Six villagers were reported to have been awarded the Military Medal: L/Cpl. Joseph Holmes, Sgt. William Broomhead, Pte. Percy Knowles, Pte. Walter Bunting, Dvr. Clifford Barker, Pte. William Hodgkinson.



Roll of Honour

Pte. Arthur Brown, 1/6th Sherwood Foresters, Neuville St Eloi, April 17th 1916. No 4536, B Co. 3/6th Sherwood Foresters he left the village in Sept 1915, age 19 and after six months training went to France in late February to survive but a few weeks. He was killed on Easter Monday. He was the son of Arthur Brown, the cobbler whose shop was on Church Street and he had two sisters, the family living in the middle house of the short terrace on the left at the bottom of Little London.

Pte. Harold Marsh, 10th Sherwood Foresters, Delville Wood, August 12th 1916. He was the eldest of his family. He had worked on Stoppard's farm before he enlisted in A Company of the Notts and Derby Regt. on Sept 5th 1914 and trained at Bovington Camp, Wool, Dorset. He is remembered as a notable footballer. He wrote, "We get plenty of bathing in the sea, and also plenty of drill, 8 hours a day. It is warm down here, the weather is splendid. I am sorry there is no football at home." He later wrote with reference to some Belgian evacuees housed in the village, "I am very pleased you have taken some of those poor Belgians in." By December he was pleased to be housed in huts as it was by then "always raining." In February he reported that being engaged doing a firing course he expected to move before the end of the month. He sailed to join the British Expeditionary Force in July 1915. In September he wrote, "I have nearly got over my little misfortune....I have to thank one of these 'Whizzbangs' for my little accident." By October he was out of the trenches for a rest "all pretty well done up." In December he was again wounded. He was killed in an attack on the German trenches after a year in France.

2/Lt. George Futvoye Marsden-Smedley, 3rd Bn, The Rifle Brigade, Guillemont, August 18th 1916. The son of John and Gertrude Mary Marsden-Smedley, his elder brother John served in the Navy. He was a pupil at Harrow School where he was captain of cricket and as a member of the O.T.C. volunteered to be recruited straight into the army from school. He was gazetted to commissioned rank in August 1915 and embarked for France just before his 19th birthday. While leading his platoon in an attack on the Somme a year later he single-handedly assaulted a German machine gun which was holding up his Company's

advance. This was when he was killed and his remains were never identified. His parents bought what they identified as the spot in Guillemont and erected a memorial. His father planted a wood, George's Wood, to stand as a quiet tribute although it is now felled.

Pte. Harold Oakley, 16th Canadian Scottish (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry). Courcellette, September 27th 1916. He was well remembered in Holloway since he had left as recently as 1912 to join his brother and sister in Canada. He enlisted in 1915, reaching England in May, 1916 and moving on to France in August. He died of wounds the following month, aged 20. He was one of the large family of George Oakley who worked as a masseur at Riber and Smedley's Hydro. They lived on The Hillside above Church Street.

Pte. Harold Alfred Thorpe, 16th Sherwood Foresters, near Thiepval, October 9th, 1916. No. 29343. He left his work at Lea Mills to serve in August 1915. He was one of the family of Gertrude and William Thorpe and had one sister, Kathleen, as well as a brother William, who was wounded. His grandfather was a blacksmith in Lea.

2/Lt. George Francis Walker, 3rd Bn. York & Lancaster Regt, on the Somme, December 8th 1916. He sailed for France November 1915 initially intending to serve in the ranks. He was gazetted 2/Lt. June 1916 as which he served until his death six months later. He was the youngest son of Mr & Mrs George Walker of Lea Wood Hall and Waterside, Lingfield & grandson of William Walker who operated the Hat Factory in Lea Bridge.

Pte. Ernest Davis, 54th (Hootenay) Bn. Canadian Regt. Vimy Ridge, April 9th, 1917. No 472708. He enlisted in December 1915. He was another notable village footballer. He was the son of Francis (Frank) and Prunella Mary Davis. He had worked for Mr Stoppard, farming, before emigrating to Canada. His father operated a coach and haulage business and later an off-licence and a greengrocer's round. Village children remembered riding with him. The family lived at Holloway House (now 'The Rise'). His brother Arthur worked in the building trade. There were also two sisters, Edith and Clara.

Pte. Frederick George Hawley, 1st North Staffs Regt. Zillebeke, June 12th 1917. No 28086. He left his work at Lea Green to join up in June 1916. He was employed as chauffeur to Mr Marsden-Smedley, in 1908, driving the first car in the village which was a 'Panhard Lavasseur.' His mother was a widow.

L/Cpl. Norman Bywater Miers, 28th Australian Imperial Forces, Polygon Wood, September 20th, 1917. He was 45 when killed. His parents, John Miers and Susannah (nee Blakey) were resident in the village in 1871, being born in Honley and Leeds respectively. In 1881 John Miers was manager of Wass's Lead Smelting Works and the family, including Norman, lived in the house at the Wesleyan Chapel founded by Mr Wass.

Pte. William Andrew Hughes, 2/8th Sherwood Foresters, Ypres, September 29th 1917. Army No. 1537. In November 1914 he was in B Sqn, Derbyshire Imperial Yeomanry as a L/Cpl. having enlisted August 5th, on Nov 23rd he was serving at the Devonshire Arms at Baslow. He wrote, "I received the magazine this morning; it is quite a change to read something from our own place," and later about a pair of the socks one of many which were knitted in the village for the soldiers. He later reported his feeling of good fortune to be assigned as an officer's servant. In July he was at home at Redhill Farm, Tansley for two months to help with the harvest. He was mortally wounded at the front on September 28th 1917 and died the same day aged 25. He had been in the Yeomanry at the outbreak of war and having completed his service with them was released in 1916 to be called up again in May 1917. He sailed for foreign service in July. He left a widowed mother.

Pte. Thomas Hodgkinson, 5th Sherwood Foresters, Epehy, January 9th, 1918. No 60422. He left the village in August 1916. He sailed for France in January 1917, meeting with an unspecified 'accident' in August that year. For months he suffered in hospital until death at Belper released him, aged 30. He left a widow, Clara; their daughter Elsie was born shortly afterwards. His mother was later to lose a second son.

Pte. Jack Peach, 15th Sherwood Foresters, Bullecourt, March 21st, 1918. No. 41281. He joined up in April 1916, leaving for France that August. He was one of the Peach Family who lived on The Hillside, Holloway before moving down to Little London. His father was George Peach, a stone mason, born in the village, and his mother Sarah (née Radford) came from Tansley.

Cpl. William Hodgkinson, M M, 2nd Sherwood Foresters, Le Verguier, March 22nd 1918. No 70618. He left the village in January 1916, sailing for France in August that year. He was awarded the Military Medal in November 1917 for conspicuous bravery and was killed in action aged 22. The parents of the two Hodgkinsons were Julia (née Slater) and Edward, they lived at Codington and he worked as a gardener for Mr Bunting of Crich Carr. The third son, Isaac was also a gardener. He lived in Holloway and was injured in the same war.

Gnr. Arthur Walker, 5th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, Villers-Bretonneau, August 8th, 1918. No. 86182. The son of Mrs S. Sellors of Lea Bridge. He was one of the first members of Rev. Windley's Sunday School. He spent six years in the Navy before going to Canada in 1910, and enlisting in 1916. While on leave he visited the village shortly after the death of his grandmother, Mrs Yeomans of Lea Wood. His father is remembered as a horn player. He was mortally wounded by shelling on August 8th while working with the Brigade Signals Officer and died the same day.

Pte. Stanley Clarkstone, 7th Lincolns, Montigny, October 9th, 1918. He was a member of the Scouts while a boy. In September 1918 he sailed to France, traveling to the front in cattle trucks. On October 1st he wrote about a football match they had and about sports in which he ran. On the 7th he reported he was in a dugout with two bits of Zinc over the top. He was killed outright two days later in an advance along a railway to capture a village. This was a month before the armistice. Known fondly as "Mrs Woolworth," his mother ran a small shop on Church Street. She had two daughters.

Others

The Parish Magazine makes reference to others who are not listed on the War Memorials.

Leopold or Aime Gunst. Leopold wrote to the village from the front at Christmas 1916 and in April 1917. His brother Aime was in the Engineers. One of the Gunst family was killed while serving. M and Madame Gunst with their family, M and Madame Parrien and their child, were accommodated in the village arriving in November from Belgium without food or furniture and not speaking the language. They were supported by gifts of money and furniture through a committee whose secretary was Miss O. Marsden-Smedley, the treasurer Mr E. Crookes.

Pte. Derwas Mann of the 10th Bn. Canadian Expeditionary Force was reported killed in action May 2nd 1915 being "known to several in this village in the past and was for some years in Mr Windley's Bible Class. He paid a visit here on arriving in England, and sang in our choir."

Capt. Carlyon Will Mason-McFarlane was killed on September 5th whilst serving with the Imperial Camel Corps. He was the grandson of Mrs Anstey (née Wass) and his father was a proprietor of the lead mine at Darley. Both explain his connection with the village.

Pte. John Eley joined the army in September 1915 going to the front in May 1916. His father lived at Riber and he was invalided home after only a few weeks (in the Dardenelles it is believed). He was discharged from hospital in September 1916. He died after a long and trying illness in September 1918 aged 26.



* * * Second World War 1939 - 1945 * * *

A 'Roll of Service' was published in the magazine intended to record those living in the parish at the time they joined up and being regular worshippers at Holloway or Dethick. The last list published (June 1945) shows that 102 men and 17 women served. Six were made prisoners of war.

Robert William Lowe was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was the brother of Mrs Mary Wallace of Matlock Bath and of Miss Winifred Lowe former Post Mistress of Lea Bridge.

Roll of Honour

Michael Gervase Ham, Sergeant Pilot, RAFVR. He died in November 1940. His father, The Very Rev. Herbert Ham who had retired as Provost of Derby Cathedral, was priest in charge at Christ Church (during the absence of the Vicar on special duties at Hackney, London). He and his wife lived at Wood End, Cromford together with their second son Christopher. Michael Ham joined the Air Force after studying for some time at Oxford and was involved in an accident while flying on a training mission. He was buried at Holloway.

William Colin Eugene Broomhead, Flight Sergeant Pilot RAFVR. He was killed at Fletkefjord 2nd September 1941. He was among the first to be named in the Parish Magazine of May 1940 as serving in the forces. His parents, William and Mabel Broomhead, lived at Catley Brook Cottage and he was their only child. His father was manager of the Washhouse at Lea Mills. He was re-knowned as a footballer with professional aspirations. He was at first reported 'missing' but later confirmed killed in action while serving in Coastal Command. He is buried in Norway.

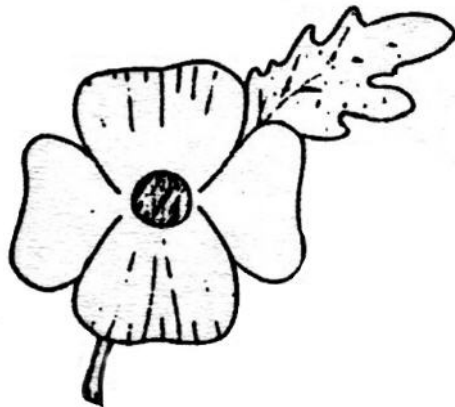
Michael George Foster, Capt. the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, attached 1st Bn. Kings Shropshire L.I. He was the eldest son of Joe and Olive Foster and grandson of John and Gertrude Marsden-Smedley. He was killed in action in the Anzio Beachhead on 3rd June 1944, and buried in the Military Cemetery at Anzio. Prior to joining the armed services he had worked for Hewsons, the timber merchants of Norwich. His young brother was killed in Italy a few months later.

William Stanley Newton, Private, Pioneer Corps. He was killed at Ryes, 17th June 1944, aged 34. He served from before September 1940 having worked at Lea Mills where he was a knitter. He was the son of the then, late, Mr and Mrs Herbert Newton and left a widow Kitty, (née Parker of Alfreton). He had a brother and his sister still lives in Lea.

Charles Lea Foster, Sgt. Royal Air Force. Third son of Joe and Olive Foster and grandson of John and Gertrude Marsden-Smedley, who lost his life when the Liberator bomber in which he was flying as a bomb-aimer crashed near Pianetto in North Italy on 13th October 1944. He had joined the Air Force upon leaving The Holt School in Norwich where his father was a House-master, and he was twenty when he died.

Arthur James Bush, Able Seaman, R.N. He died at sea off Birkenhead, 26th Jan 1945, aged 18. His parents, Mr & Mrs Harry Bush lived in Church St, Holloway and two brothers still live in the village (others of the family have moved away). Previously eager to return to sea he was much more reluctant on his last leave. Although he survived the first torpedo which struck the vessel, he was killed by the explosion of a second when he had gone below to help.

Geoffrey Wood. He was the son of the Rev. Douglas Wood and Mrs Wood, formerly of Lea Vicarage (but at the time of his son's death Vicar of Emmanuel Church, Wimbledon). He died of wounds received in the defence of Singapore



* * * **The Boer War** 1899-1902 * * *

The following fatality in the Boer War is known. It is commemorated in the Church (which was built later).

Roll of Honour

Pte. Jack Dawes. He is probably the son (born in 1877 in Holloway) of George Dawes, a hosiery warehouseman, also Holloway born, and his wife Susan who was born in Cromford. There were two brothers, Robert and George, and three sisters, Annie, Agnes and Elizabeth and their home in 1881 was in 'Hollins Square.'

When you go home tell them of us and say
“for your tomorrow we gave our today.”



The dedication of the War Memorial in 1922